

LATE GOALS
GIVE BLUES
REAL BOOST

A DEFLECTED goal by Howard Kennedy and a penalty in injury time gave Wycombe Wanderers a somewhat flattering victory over champions Enfield on Saturday at Southbury Road.

And although this result was bound to cause a few raised eyebrows around the Rothmans Isthmian League clubs, the Blues must realise they were more than a little fortunate to take the three points when a share of them would have been more justified.

Nevertheless, this victory will move Wanderers further up the Division One table and give their confidence a much needed boost.

Once again Wanderers were well below their best form in this game and made too many errors to dominate events at any stage. But fortunately Enfield were guilty of similar mistakes.

There was at least one encouraging sign for Wycombe, however, and that was the form of Mick Holfield. Moved into the front line for the second half, Mick added much needed speed and bite to the forwards and played a big part in securing the victory. The defence too, deserves a pat on the back for a resilient performance while Alan Davies and Gavin Fraser worked hard in midfield.

Davies came into the side at John Priestley's expense while George Cleary replaced Dylan Evans and Howard Kennedy was named sub. Former Wycombe centre-forward Keith Searle returned for Enfield after spending a game on the substitute's bench last week, but was well below his best and only a shadow of the player we knew at Wycombe.

Wanderers held the advantage territorially in the first half and both Fraser and Davies did much to break down Enfield's early attacks. Fraser anticipated the ball well but in common with his midfield colleagues, was unable to set the front runners in motion with any degree of consistency.

A 15th minute free kick almost gave Enfield the lead when Tony Jennings stole up unnoticed to get in a strike but Peter Spittle, who had a fine game, got down well to save. Two minutes later Ian Pearson curled over a cross which Tony Horseman, slightly off balance, headed just wide at the far post.

The standard of the first half, however, was disappointingly low due to the number of errors committed by both teams. Passing was particularly poor and it was a shame to see such established players wasting possession.

John Tone, industrious as ever in Enfield's midfield, sent in a cross that beat Spittle after 26 minutes but Keith Mead put the ball behind for a corner. At the other end Alan Phillips thumped the ball clean out of the ground when attempting a volley after a brilliant cross from Alan Davies.

About the only danger for Wanderers came from Enfield's free kicks. Once Tony Gibson was given a free header (which Spittle saved) but Wanderers also showed some new set piece ideas when Horseman chipped a free kick through to Holfield. Enfield's defence just managed to get the ball away to safety in time.

A first half injury to Horseman saw Holfield move up front after

the break while Kennedy came into midfield. Holfield made an immediate impact when he raced 40 yards towards the Enfield net but then ruined his work with a shot well off target.

Enfield, barracked by the home fans for any square or backward passes, began to get their game together mid-way through the half and John Bishop, with Eddie Reeve, a close season signing from Hillingdon, almost broke the deadlock with a fierce volley after 65 minutes.

Five minutes later Peter

McGillicuddy almost got through but saw his shot hit Spittle's legs and it was only a fine save from the Blues goalkeeper that prevented a goal when he dived bravely amongst the flying boots to grab a cross from the right.

Brian Wilson headed Enfield's ninth corner over the top after 80 minutes but Wycombe hit back two minutes later with their first goal. Holfield took the ball across the penalty area but was tackled. The ball ran loose and Kennedy drove in a shot from the edge of the box that struck

Brian Wilson and found the back of the net with Micky Lowe going the wrong way.

Despite the element of fortune about the goal Wanderers were nevertheless one up and they defended well to maintain that lead in the closing stages. Then in the second minute of injury time, Wanderers made sure of the points with a penalty.

Paul Birdseye, who had moved up front due to a late injury, crossed into the box where Tone handled in full view of the referee. Colin Downey awarded

the spot kick and Pearson, who has yet to fail from the spot, gave Lowe no chance.

The second goal came as a bonus to the Blues and it is up to them to capitalise on this result in their two home matches against Staines and Hitchin this week.

ENFIELD: M. Lowe; M. O'Sullivan, A. Jennings, B. Wilson, A. Gibson, J. Tone, R. Day, J. Bishop; P. McGillicuddy, K. Searle, D. Baker. Sub: E. Reeve (not used).

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, R. Davies; A. Davies, G. Fraser, M. Holfield; A. Horseman (sub H. Kennedy 45 mins), I. Pearson, G. Cleary.

Referee: C. Downey (Isleworth).

Half time: 0-0. **Goalscorers:**

Wycombe — Kennedy (82), Pearson (pen., 92).

By STUART EARP Enfield 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2